

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of improving the crushing strength, impact resistance and compressibility of urea granules, comprising adding to molten urea, both

a polyvinyl compound, and

an organic compound having ~~4-10~~2-6 carbon atoms and 1-10 polar organic groups, wherein the polar organic groups are selected from hydroxyl, amine and/or amide groups, and the amount of the organic compound in total is at most 1 wt%, based on the amount of molten urea.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the organic compound has between 2 and 5 carbon atoms.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the organic compound is pentaerythritol.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the organic compound to be added in total is between 5 and 100 ppm, based on the amount of molten urea.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl compound is of the general formula $(\text{CHX-CHY})_n$, where $n = 4-10,000$ and X and Y independently of one another are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a polar organic group.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein X is a hydrogen atom and Y substantially consists of a hydroxyl group.

- 10. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 7, wherein at least 70% of Y consists of a hydroxyl group.
- 11. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl compound and the organic compound are added to the molten urea as an aqueous solution having a total additive concentration of from 0.5 to 25 wt%.
- 12. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl compound and the organic compound are added to the molten urea as an aqueous solution having a total additive concentration of from 1 to 20 wt%.
- 13. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl compound and the organic compound are added to the molten urea as an aqueous solution having a total additive concentration of from 100 to 10,000 ppm.
- 14. (Cancelled)**
- 15. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the concentration of the total of the polyvinyl compound and organic compound is from 500 to 3,000 ppm.
- 16. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 10, wherein at least 95% of Y consists of a hydroxyl group.
- 17-19. (Cancelled)**
- 20. (New)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of glycol, glycerol, 1,4-butanediol, dimethylolurea, pentaerythritol, bishydroxymethylpropionic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, lactic acid, succinic acid and gluconic acid.